

Har Zion Temple

הר ציון

Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School



Passport to Your Child's
Jewish Education

5771-5772

2011-2012

Dear Parents,

As we send our second child off to college this year and continue to parent three children still at home, we reflected on this task and all we could say is, "this is really hard." Raising children is challenging and no doubt rewarding but incredibly difficult. As they grow their needs change. There is an enormous transition from the physically demanding newborn and toddler years to the most emotionally draining adolescent, teenage years. Each stage requires a recalibration of style and content of the relationship.

We get it. Along with the countless requirements of safety, health, clothing we as parents are all responsible for the religious/spiritual life our children. It is in this arena we can be your most effective partner. Your choice to send your child(ren) to the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious is an indication that you believe we are best suited for the task. We thank you for your trust and we will do everything in our power to continuously earn that confidence.

One of the most often heard comments from our children is, "why do I have to do it, if you don't?" The Shema instructs us, "you shall teach them diligently to your children." We instruct in so many ways. One of those ways, the Shema alerts us to is consistent behavior in our homes and away from home. So I make the following offer. Get involved either specifically in your own personal growth and learning or in more general ways in the congregation as a whole. Take classes that are already offered or study individually with one of the clergy. In this way you will become your child's greatest role model. We look forward to getting to know you better and helping, in whatever way possible, to teach your kids, our kids.

Warmest regards,
Rabbi Jay M. Stein
Senior Rabbi

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. We are honored that you trust us as a partner in your child's Jewish education. We are fully committed to instilling a strong Jewish identity and engaging you in that mission. We serve as a gateway for additional Jewish education, practice and involvement at home, in synagogue and in community life. To achieve this, we continue to invest in up-to-date resources and technologies and quality educators to nurture and sustain Jewish identity through adulthood.

Children at our school can participate to their fullest potential, no matter their ability, and experience the joy of learning about and celebrating our rich heritage. Har Zion Temple strives to make a difference in the lives of our children and their families.

Come join us in the classroom and meet the dedicated faculty and staff. Join us for school, youth group and synagogue programs. We also look forward to seeing your children with you at Shabbat and Holiday services.

Along with my husband Morris (HJT Confirmation Class of 1971) and our daughters, Jennifer (HJT Class of 2004) and Erica (HJT Class of 2007), I welcome you to the Har Zion family.

Please don't hesitate to contact me during the year.

B' Shalom,

Nancy Kurtzman
President, Har Zion Temple

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. Rabbi Nogah Marshall, her teachers and staff are busy putting the final touches on another exciting and innovative year. Everyone associated with the school is so proud of the wide variety of programs that we offer to meet the needs of our students.

Our "Chai Five" Program is now in its second year. As many of you know, we established the "Chai Five" Program to enrich the education of our students who want to take their Jewish Education one step further. We were thrilled that over the summer, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism awarded "Chai Five" its Solomon Schechter Gold Award for excellence in education. All of our Religious School students will continue to enjoy our "Chugim". Over the school year, students select several Jewish themed electives that interest them most. We continue to serve the needs of the broader Jewish community with our Madregot Program. This program allows students with special needs to receive a valuable Jewish education. Finally, we encourage our Hebrew High School students to become involved in Har Zion's award winning USY chapter.

Enriching and empowering our children with a Jewish education is one of the most important and long lasting gifts we can provide. Show your children that you value this opportunity by becoming engaged with the school yourself. Become involved in the Parent Teacher Association led by Ina Altman and Pamela Goldman. Attend a meeting of the School Committee led by Jill Schain or the Youth Committee led by Michele Perlstein. Participate with your children in one of our many programs.

Please contact me at any time with your questions, suggestions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and the Har Zion staff to have another great school year.

B'Shalom,

Laura Berney
VP, Education and Youth
lauraberney@comcast.net

Dear Parents,

I am honored to serve as Chair of the Har Zion Temple School Committee for the 2011-2012 school year. As a parent with children in The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, I am very interested in making sure that the Jewish education our children receive is the very best it can be. Therefore, I am very much looking forward to working with our exceptional professional staff, faculty, lay leaders, clergy, and all of my fellow parents to further Rabbi Marshall's vision of a Religious School where experiential Jewish learning is associated with excitement and fun and leads to a lifelong commitment to Judaism.

The School Committee's charge is to determine policy and set standards for The Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education and the divisions of The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School as well as to provide general oversight for the schools.

I invite you to join me in participating in the many great programs our schools have to offer. These include our family education programs, grade level programs and Shabbat services. It is only through the dedication of active and concerned parents that any school can be truly successful. The professional staff and faculty cannot do it alone. There are many ways to get involved and enhance our children's educational experience. Volunteer as a classroom parent, provide an extra pair of hands at a PTA or HSA function or become a School Committee member.

I hope you will share your ideas, suggestions and concerns with the members of the School Committee and the educational staff. Together we can assure the success of the 2011-2012 school year for all of our children.

L'Hitraot,

Jill Schain
School Committee Chair
schainj@verizon.net

Dear Parents,

Beruchim Habaa'im! Welcome back to The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School! We have a wonderful year planned not only for your children but for your entire family as well. There is a wonderful teaching in the Sefer Hasidim that says, "there are three teachers: parents, instructors, and comrades". We learn from this teaching that our children's Jewish Education is provided by the teamwork of a number of individuals.

As parents, through your support and dedication, you teach your children the importance of receiving a Jewish Education. As instructors, our faculty, through creative techniques, provide your children with the facts and skills to help them become practicing Conservative Jews.

So, who are the comrades? By definition a comrade is a companion who shares one's activities or is a fellow member of an organization. The comrades are again, you, me and the entire Har Zion Temple community. You have already taken the first step. As parents you are providing your children with a Jewish education. We urge you to take the next step, by becoming a comrade and become involved in the Har Zion Temple greater community. Your child's Jewish journey will not be complete without your participation. By becoming involved in your child's Jewish education you will make their experience even more special. There are a variety of ways to become involved. You can join the PTA, Youth Committee or School Committee. You can attend a Shabbat service together with your children. You can chair a PTA event. You can attend Sunday School for Parents one Sunday a month, or you can grab a cup of coffee Sunday morning and join us for Tefillot. Take this opportunity to spend time with your children in our building.

Our faculty and staff worked all summer planning for an exciting year. We welcome this year new leadership: President, Nancy Kurtzman, Vice President of Education and Youth Laura Berney, School Committee Chair Jill Schain, and Youth Committee Chair Michele Perlstein. Our doors are always open and we would love to hear from you.

We have a wonderful year planned and we look forward to learning and celebrating with you.

Rabbi Nogah Marshall
Educational Director

THE SCHOOLS OF HAR ZION TEMPLE
MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to nurture excellence in Jewish education and a lifelong love of Jewish learning, to impart to our students and their families the skills to be practicing Conservative Jews and to enrich their understanding of Judaism.

All of these efforts are guided by:

TORAH, AVODAH & GEMILUT HASADIM

The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School
The Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education

REGISTRATION FORMS

A registration form must be on file in the school office **before** the first day of school. Children may begin classes when registration is complete. Registration forms will be accepted when **all financial obligations are current.**

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gan: Getting to know my Jewish World

This is an introduction to Judaism. Students will be introduced to the Hebrew alphabet, basic customs of Jewish holidays, famous places in Israel, basic prayers, biblical stories and characters. What makes me Jewish?

Aleph: Kehillah-Community

Students in Aleph will learn about prayer, Torah, holidays, Bible and Israel through the lens of Kehillah. How am I connected to the Jewish people? How is their story, my story?

Bet: Torah as the Source and the Center

Students in the Bet class will learn about prayer, Mitzvot, holidays, and Israel through the lens of Torah, and Torah study. How does studying the Torah give us they history, beliefs, values, and Mitzvot we need to guide us today?

Gimel: How Jews relate to God?

In Gimel, students will learn about the history of how Jews relate to God through prayer, holidays and Mitzvot, Israel and Torah, and think about their own God beliefs. How can I relate to God through prayer, mitzvot, holidays and Torah?

Dalet: The Jewish Homeland

In Dalet, students will learn about how the holidays, prayers, Torah, Mitzvot and Israel connect to the land and modern state of Israel, its past history and its modern culture. How is the land of Israel a part of my Jewish world?

Heh: Middot

In Heh students will learn about holidays, prayer, Torah, Israel, and Mitzvot through the lens of middot, the Jewish values/character traits that shape who we are, and how we live our lives in the real world. What kind of person should a Jew be?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hebrew

Students continue their reading skills with a focus on prayers relevant to the Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Tefillot

Students participate in a student led prayer service on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

Life Cycle

Students in the sixth grade participate in a life cycle course focusing on the different stages of Jewish life. Visits from a Mohel and funeral home, and a visit to the local Mikveh are highlights of the class.

Havurah

Students participate in a class on current events that are relevant to our lives as Jews today.

Jewish Literature

Students participate in a Jewish literature focusing on Jewish short stories with themes relevant to our lives today.

American Jewish History

Students participate in a class on American Jewish history learning about their Jewish heritage.

Mishnah

Students in the Chai Five Program participate in a text class focusing on a book from the Mishnah.

CHAI FIVE PROGRAM-ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

The "Chai Five Program" of The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School is a program for students in grades 3-7 who want to take their Jewish Education one step further. This program, designed for the serious student who is dedicated to integrating the values of Judaism into their daily lives, meets during regular school hours. Students participate part of the day with their grade level, and part of the day in "Chai Five" elective classes. Students who join this program also commit to completing work outside of the classroom as well as attending monthly Shabbat services.

HIGH SCHOOL

Eighth Grade

Parshat Hashavua: This course provides the students with an insight to Torah study using the weekly portion as the text.

Holocaust: Echoes and Reflections: We will be using the award winning curriculum developed by the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, and Yad Vashem. A major focus of this class will be visual history testimony of survivors, rescuers, liberators and other witnesses. Students will be challenged to examine their own personal narratives as well as build an authentic and complete portrait of the past using primary source materials such as photographs, art work, diary entries, letters, poems and government documents.

Ninth Grade

Conventional Wisdom: This course is based on several USY sourcebooks used at USY International Conventions throughout the years. These texts provide an insight into contemporary issues facing Jews and Jewish teenagers today, using our traditional sources as a foundation.

Israel: This course will expose the students to the history and current state of Israel through the media.

Tenth Grade: Conventional Wisdom: This course is based on several USY sourcebooks used at USY International Conventions throughout the years. These texts provide an insight into contemporary issues facing Jews and Jewish teenagers today, using our traditional sources as a foundation.

Confirmation: This class provides a unique opportunity to study text with Rabbi Stein.

Eleventh Grade

Project Teach: Students participate in a two-year intensive program in which they study the theory and acquire the skills needed to teach in a supplementary Hebrew School environment.

Relationships in the Torah: Students in this class learn about relationships through text.

Twelfth Grade

Talmud: This course deals with business ethics, zoning practices, professional relationships, the meaning of neighborhood, and the history of Jewish education from tractate Baba Batra.

Project Teach: Twelfth grade students complete their two-year Project Teach experience as student teachers in a classroom in The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School.

Social Service(8th-12th Grade): This program is a hands on approach to applying Jewish values in our own community.

Havurah (8th-12th Grade): All grades will study current events through multi media and how they connect to Judaism.

Chai Society Honors Program

(Grades 8-12) Students who wish to “Kick-Up a Notch” their High School experience are required to earn a combined total of 18 (Chai) points from the following areas:

1. Academic/Classroom
2. Synagogue Activity
3. Community Service.

Religious School for Parents

Join fellow parents for a cup of coffee and some Jewish learning.

Sunday, 9:45am-10:30am in the Rudofker Library

"Soccer practice, ballet class and Torah: How do we bring all of these into our lives"

September 25

October 23

November 13

December 11

"The Last Dance" - An exploration of death, dying and afterlife

January 8

February 12

March 18

April 15

AIMS & GOALS

Our goals are to produce Jews who:

- ✧ Express pride in their heritage, are excited about being Jewish and practice Jewish traditions.
- ✧ Enthusiastically support and participate in the life of our synagogue, their Jewish community and their community at large.
- ✧ Are familiar with the rituals and customs associated with Shabbat and the Holidays.
- ✧ See themselves as an important link in the chain of Am Yisrael.
- ✧ Understand the nature of prayer, are comfortable with the prayer book, and participate in Tefillah with Kavanah (feeling).
- ✧ Can explain and live by the important values and Mitzvot which have guided Jews for 3500 years.
- ✧ Value the place of Hebrew in Jewish tradition.
- ✧ Affirm their historic bond to the Land of Israel, visit Israel and work for its well-being.

The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School Schedule
"Nurturing Excellence in Jewish Education"

CLASS SCHEDULE

Elementary School

Kindergarten

Sunday Only: 9:45AM-1:00PM

Grades 1-5

Sunday: 9:45AM-1:00PM

Tuesday: 4:00PM-6:15PM

Middle School

Grades 6-7

Sunday: 9:45AM-1:00PM

Wednesday: 6:30PM-8:30PM

High School and Midrasha

Grades 8-11

Sunday Only: 9:45AM-1:00PM

Grade 12

Sunday: 9:15AM-1:00PM

WHY A CLASS REQUIREMENT?

There is substantial research in Jewish and general education which indicates that regular attendance at classes has a positive effect on both the quality and quantity of student learning. Our primary goal is for all of our students to have a successful Jewish educational experience. In addition, as a school accredited by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, our students must meet the class attendance requirements noted below.

CLASS ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT: (Grades 3-7)

- ✧ A student in Grades 3-7 at The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School is expected to attend 70% of the scheduled class hours for the year. If a student misses two consecutive classes, the designated teacher will contact the student's family by phone and submit a transcript of that phone call to the Educational Director.
- ✧ Twice a year, every family in grades 3-7 will be notified of their student's class attendance record.
- ✧ Should it appear that the student will not meet the requirement, arrangements must be made with the Educational Director to assure the student masters the grade level material. A plan will be developed by the student's teacher and the Educational Director.
- ✧ Should there be extenuating circumstances affecting a student's ability to meet this requirement, the family is requested to speak with the Educational Director. We seek to work with you to provide your child with a solid Jewish education.

SHABBAT INTEGRATION-ALL SCHOOLS

"Catch that Shabbat Spirit"
Har Zion Families Celebrate
Shabbat Together

Participation in Shabbat services is an integral part of our school program. Beginning with our youngest students, we encourage participation in our class led Shabbat service. Please note that the Sunday following your child's class Shabbat class will not be held.

Class Shabbat dates for 2010-2011 are:

Gan/Aleph: October 29, January 21 No Gan/Aleph class on October 30, January 22

Bet: November 5, January 28 No Bet Class November 6, January 29

Gimel: November 12, February 4 No Gimel Class November 13, February 5

Dalet: November 19, February 11 No Dalet Class November 20, February 12

Heh: December 3, February 25 No Heh Class December 4, February 26

Vav: December 10, March 10 No Vav Class December 11, March 11

Why a Shabbat Requirement?

First, because it enables our students to become more comfortable and familiar with Shabbat services. This is a primary goal of our synagogue and school. Second, it fulfills a requirement of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for the accreditation of Religious Schools. We highly value attendance at Shabbat services. Recognition of our students' successful accomplishment of this goal might include:

- ✧ Family Aliyah
- ✧ Special Kippah, bracelet, or other article
- ✧ Recognition at synagogue Shabbat dinner
- ✧ Honor at Holiday or Shabbat Service
- ✧ Installation into Ben/Bat Torah Society

Shabbat Attendance Requirement (Grades 3-7)

- ✧ All students in Grades 3-7 at The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School must attend at least ten Shabbat services during the school year at Har Zion Temple.
- ✧ Five of these services must be on Shabbat morning and up to five may be on Friday night.
- ✧ A student will receive credit for up to **TWO** services attended at a synagogue other than Har Zion Temple. When this occurs, the family is asked to notify the school by letter or email to: JFGRS@harziontemple.org so that the student can receive proper credit.
- ✧ We invite all 8th through 12th graders to join the Har Zion community on Shabbat at one of our many services or study groups. Services recognized by HZT include: Main Sanctuary, Teen Services, Minyan in the Round, Brith Shalom House, and USY Shabbatton.
- ✧ Credit is not given for attendance at Shabbat services when Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur or Simhat Torah occurs on Shabbat.
- ✧ To record attendance please make sure your student marks it in the binder outside the chapel and/or sanctuary.
- ✧ It is suggested that families incorporate a Shabbat attendance schedule into their personal calendars to assure that each student will fulfill the Shabbat requirement.
- ✧ Attendance records are maintained by the Educational Director and will be shared with parents twice a year.
- ✧ Should there be any extenuating circumstances affecting a student's ability to meet this requirement, the family should speak with the Educational Director to discuss options.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Ma Po Kore Po (What's Happening Here)

An electronic newsletter will be emailed home once a week with news, upcoming events and updates of what is happening at the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School.

This newsletter is the main form of school communication. To make sure you are on our distribution list, please contact the office: 610-664-5746 or email us at jfgrs@harziontemple.org.

Student Evaluations (Elementary and Middle School)

Student Evaluations are issued twice a year, after winter break and at the close of the academic year.

Hebrew Reading Evaluation

Each student in grades 2-7 is evaluated on Hebrew reading skills twice a year. The evaluation follows the student year-to-year so that you and your child's teacher will be able to assess the development of your child's reading skills.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

For personal meetings with your child's teacher please contact the teacher directly.

Class Placement

Class placement is based on a number of factors; including teacher recommendations, class size, class composition, and individual academic needs.

SCHOOL FOOD POLICY

Sunday Snack: Soft pretzels will be provided to all students. The PTA will be selling a bagel bag lunch by pre-order only. Please see the order forms.

Lunch (K-2) Sundays

Please send in a DAIRY OR PARVE LUNCH to school with your child.

No meat or meat products or those using animal beef fat, lard, etc., may be brought into school.

Snacks

Snacks must have the (U) or (Kaf-K) *Kosher* seal. Children can buy snacks that are sold in the Berkowitz Family Auditorium on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:00PM, Wednesdays from 7:15-7:45 PM and Sundays during class breaks.

Prepaid Snack Cards

We offer prepaid snack cards for the students in our school. Each card has a \$10.00 value. The cards will be kept in the school office for the student's use. Cards may be purchased throughout the year. Students may use the cards to purchase snacks before school on Tuesdays, during break for Middle and High School on Wednesdays, on Sundays during breaks and during special events.

ALL PREPACKAGED FOOD MUST HAVE (U) OR (KAF-K) *KOSHER* SEAL

**THE JANE FISHMAN GRINBERG RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS A
PEANUT FREE ENVIRONMENT.**

**Special Needs Program of
The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School
of Har Zion Temple**

מדרגות

MA-DRE-GOT

(Steps)

**Providing individualized religious
programming for the unique learner**

- Non-Members are Welcome
- Mainstreaming
- Experienced Team

Please contact Rabbi Nogah Marshall for more information 610-667-5000
x114 or rnmarshall@harziontemple.org.

YOUTH GROUPS 2011-2012

Garinim Grades 1-2

Advisor: Amy Alderman

Garinim has many exciting social and educational activities including:
pottery making, Hanukkah parties, scavenger hunts and more!

Haverim Grades 3 -4

Advisor: Amy Alderman

Haverim runs amazing social and educational programs throughout the year ranging from aquarium trips and Havdalah programs to amusement park trips.

Kadimah Grades 5 - 7

Advisor: Aviva Habib

In JR USY, there are many incredible social events, both on a chapter and regional level.

USY Grades 8-12

Advisor: Joseph Kripke

Har Zion USY runs diverse social events such as comedy clubs, coffee houses, Shabbatonim, Regional and International Conventions

Har Zion USY engages teens with hands-on social action and innovative informal education programs which are closely coordinated with the High School.

For more information please call 610-667-5000 x183.

SAFETY RULES FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

In order to safely manage the orderly drop-off and pick-up of your child/children at school it is necessary to follow the procedures described below:

When dropping off a student:

Drive down the center aisle of the school parking lot.

Turn left and stay in a single lane, keeping to the right side of the driveway. Pull up to the entrance/exit and allow your child/children to exit the vehicle. Pull back into the center of the driveway (to the left) and exit.

When picking up a student:

Drive down the center aisle of the school parking lot.

Turn left and stay in a single lane, keeping to the right side of the driveway. Pull up as far as possible to the right side of the driveway and form a single lane of traffic. Please leave just enough space between your car and the car in front of you so that you can pull out to the left and exit when your child/children enter your car. Please stay in this single lane and move your car ahead when the space in front of you becomes vacated or when directed to by the teachers. Once your child/children are in your car, pull out to the left and follow the driveway to the right and the main exit.

*** Please feel free to come in the school lobby or library to socialize with other parents prior to dismissal and have a cup of coffee.**

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DROPPING YOUR CHILDREN OFF
LATE AND PICKING THEM UP EARLY; IT DISRUPTS THE
FLOW OF THE DAY.**

**CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN TO BE USED IN SCHOOL.
THEY WILL BE COLLECTED IF SEEN AND RETURNED AT THE
END OF THE DAY.**

**NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO WALK THROUGH THE
HALLWAY TO EXIT AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OR THE NEW
BUILDING. THESE DOORS ARE ALARMED.**

**THE ONLY EXIT FOR OUR CHILDREN IS FROM THE
SCHOOL LOBBY.**

**NO CHILD IS EVER TO WALK ONTO THE PARKING
LOT ALONE.**

Please Drive Slowly!

Har Zion Temple Schools

Broadcast Numbers for School Closing on KYW

NCCECE #3118

The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School

ES #222

MS & HS #2272

We follow the Lower Merion School District School Closing Policy

Har Zion Temple Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School Contact Information:

**1500 Hagys Ford Road
Penn Valley, PA 19072**

School Office: 610-664-5746

School Email Address: JFGRS@harziontemple.org

Fax: 610-667-0824

Educational Director: Rabbi Nogah Marshall

610-667-5000, ext. 114

rnmarshall@harziontemple.org

Administration: Sharon Kenworthy

610-667-5000 ext. 117 or 610-664-5746

skenworthy@harziontemple.org